

Unlike so many of the millionaires who received a \$93,000 tax cut in the \$350 billion tax bill, these families who earn between \$10,500 and \$26,000 per year and know what it is to work and pay taxes. We should walk in their shoes.

And let me remind the majority who this injustice has affected disproportionately. Two-thirds of the parents who will not be receiving this tax cut are women. 4 million single mothers, a million married couples with stay-at-home moms. Fifty-five percent of all married-couple families. Two hundred thousand military families. All have been left out by this Republican majority. On average, these families would have received \$276 in this year alone had the tax credit been extended to them.

Maybe that does not sound like a lot of money to some, particularly those millionaires who are going to get their \$93,000, but it can be a difference between a child going to school with or without school supplies, it helps the families of the 9 million children in this country without health insurance pay for the health care services that they need.

Assisting these families, these 12 million children, is a moral issue. It is a matter of values. Mr. Speaker, we must call on the president to use his moral authority, do something about those six-and-a-half million working families. They have earned that child tax credit like we will never know. We should pass this motion to instruct.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ADJOURNMENT TO FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, October 24, 2003.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2003 TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Friday, October 24, 2003, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 2003, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LETTERS FROM CONSTITUENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, back in 1838, the conservative leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives passed a rule prohibiting the discussion of slavery, essentially banning the debate of slavery in this body, which was the largest blot on our national heritage. For 4 years, people were not allowed to debate the issue of slavery on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Former President, then Congressman John Quincy Adams, night after night, day after day, week after week, came to the House floor, and not being able to debate slavery, he read letters from his constituents, most of them women, who could not vote in those days in the middle of the 19th century. So he read letters from his constituents protesting government policy on slavery.

Today, we have seen in this body the continued suppression of debate on whether or not the Bush administration told the truth about Iraq, a continuation of disallowing of amendments that would have provided and supplied for our soldiers better than they have been, and that the military is able to, and so, as a result, Mr. Speaker, today I want to read letters from my constituents about some of those issues.

Sharyn from Fairlawn, Ohio, writes: No to \$87 billion to Iraq. Yes to education that has suffered under President Bush. Yes for the creation of jobs that have suffered under Bush. Yes for giving financial aid to the small business manufacturing industry that has suffered to the point of near extinction. Let us get our country back.

Sharyn of Fairlawn, Ohio, was talking about the fact that we have lost 3½

million jobs since President Bush took office. In my State of Ohio, one out of every seven manufacturing jobs has disappeared, much of it because of bad trade agreements, and much of it because of Bush economic policies. One out of seven jobs has disappeared.

Erica, from Clinton, Ohio, writes: To continue writing blank checks to the team responsible for the deplorable mess in Iraq is throwing good money after bad. With the current team overseeing the reconstruction of Iraq, there will be no end in sight to further demands for additional monies. Keep large corporations from making important decisions in Iraq.

What Erica from Clinton, Ohio, is talking about is the fact that the Halliburton corporation and many other companies have received large, unbid contracts from President Bush and from the Pentagon to rebuild Iraq. It is the same company, Halliburton, which still is paying its former CEO, present Vice President of the United States, RICHARD CHENEY, still paying Vice President CHENEY \$13,000 every month.

So we have Halliburton, which has gotten literally billions of dollars in contracts, many of them unbid gifts from taxpayers, unbid contracts. Hundreds of millions of dollars in unbid contracts, billions of dollars overall. Halliburton has gotten this money and much of it is not accounted for. Yet the Vice President of the United States is still receiving \$13,000 a month from this company, not to mention Bechtel and other corporations, most of which are friends of the President and major contributors of the George Bush reelection campaign.

Celia from Strongsville writes: No more money should be allocated for Iraq until we make Bush's administration accountable for it and tell us what he is doing with it.

Again, she is talking about Halliburton, the \$13,000 a month to Vice President CHENEY, and all the money unaccounted for going to these large corporations which are major contributors to the President.

Celia continues to write: You cannot cut taxes and continue to increase spending without bankrupting the next generation in this country. When Congress appropriated \$87 billion last week, at the President's demand, understand every one of those \$87 billion was borrowed money from the next generation.

Celia then closes by saying: I used to think Republicans were more fiscally responsible than Democrats. I know that is not true any more.

Jack from Strongsville, Ohio, writes: Enough is enough. Let us stop losing American lives and get back to saving our country.

Ed from Strongsville, Ohio, writes: We seem to have no money for anything other than defense initiatives. The Iraq war has totally distracted us from the real issues of terrorism and from our domestic economic agenda.

What Ed from Strongsville is talking about is the President and the administration have lost sight of going after Osama bin Laden, lost sight of going after al Qaeda, lost sight of protecting us at home, lost sight of spending money on our security at home, from jobs to homeland security, and, instead, has gone into another country and is spending these untold billions on reconstructing Iraq.

Ed concludes by saying: It is time for a constructive effort to fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, many of us have received hundreds, thousands of letters from our constituents upset about this policy and they want some direction. They want no more corruption in Iraq.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1600

HOUSE SHOULD ELIMINATE DEATH TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am back on the floor again. This is my fourth or fifth week of coming down at least one time a week to remind the leadership of the House, both Republican and Democrat, that each and every time a man or woman dies for this country, whether it be in training or in Iraq or Afghanistan, when the family not only buries that loved one, the next year they will receive a tax from Uncle Sam on a small amount of money called a death gratuity. It is \$6,000.

I have a bill in, and it is my second year of introducing legislation to eliminate that tax. It was put on by mistake in the early 1990s; but since that time, everyone in uniform that has died for this country, whether peacetime or wartime, the families have paid the gift of that child who died for freedom, particularly now in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Behind me are the faces of those, just a few, who have given their lives for America. Outside of my office, 422 Cannon, we update each and every week the faces of those who have given their lives.

It touches one's heart to see people walking down the hall stop to take a moment to look into the faces of those who have died for freedom. That is the purpose of honoring those who have given their lives and families, by having people never forget there is an expensive cost for freedom, and that is the lives of those who have given their lives for this great Nation. I am hopeful that the leadership will be bringing legislation to the floor that will reduce and eliminate that tax on the death gratuity.

Mr. Speaker, I show this photograph of a young man whose name is Tyler Jordan. Tyler is from Connecticut. His father was Marine Gunnery Sergeant Philip Jordan. This was one of the shots I saw in the newspaper that touched my heart so much that I contacted the photographer and asked him to buy this photograph. This young man is 6 years old. He has the American flag under his arm which draped his father's coffin, and he is looking at the coffin holding his father.

The reason I keep bringing this to the floor along with these other photographs is because this Congress cannot leave this year without passing legislation to eliminate the tax on the death gratuity. For this young man and his family to receive a bill from Uncle Sam in 2004 to pay the tax on the gift of his father, and the husband and son, it just does not make any sense.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged. The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and I have been working on this issue, and I have been told that the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) will be bringing legislation to the floor that will increase the death gratuity and also eliminate the tax. I am pleased to say that I know that every Member of Congress on both sides of the aisle will join us in passing the legislation and send it to the other body, and plead with the other body to please pass the same legislation and send it to the President before we end this year. It is wrong and unacceptable that any family that gives a loved one to this Nation for freedom would be sent a bill from Uncle Sam. I am pleased that I have been told that there will be legislation coming to the floor that will eliminate the tax and also will raise the death gratuity.

Mr. Speaker, we must remember that these men and women who have given their lives for this country, that the families have given enough and they need not give any more to Uncle Sam.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I close by asking God to please bless our men and women in uniform, please bless their families, for God to please hold in his loving arms those who have given a loved one for freedom. I ask God to please bless the young men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right in the eyes of the Lord. I ask God to please give the President of the United States wisdom, courage, and strength to do what is right.

Mr. Speaker, I close by asking three times, please God, please God, please God, please God continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

TRIBUTE TO TERRI SCHINDLER-SCHIAVO

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to speak for the life of a fellow citizen, Ms. Terri Schindler-Schiavo. Her story has been heard worldwide and I join millions across the world, including our Governor, Jeb Bush, to urge that her feeding tube be replaced and her life spared.

According to the web site established on her behalf, Terri was 26 years old when she suffered brain damage from a sudden collapse. She receives her food and water by means of a feeding tube. Terri's other bodily functions are physically stable. Terri smiles, laughs and cries. Terri recognizes voices and responds. At times, she vocalizes sounds, trying in her best way to speak.

While these situations are heart-breaking for all of those involved, we need to remember that all life is precious. It is not for us to measure what constitutes "valuable life v. invaluable." We never know how one's life may impact others. While Terri's life seems "a waste" or "over" to others, she obviously brings delight and happiness to her family and those around her. Her parents and siblings have fought in court to keep Terri alive.

Members, the prospect of a society that places price-tags on human life, is terrifying. We must uphold the American precedent that ". . . All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life . . ." I stand in support of Terri's family, as well as our Governor and State leaders who are trying to preserve this precious life.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KIND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.